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At evening, the people, who have been occupied in their fields during the day, all come with their cattle within the walls and the gates are closed; all night sentries watch on the towers, and every half hour the "All's well" resounds through the stillness, though it may get less frequent towards the sleepy hours of morning. At dawn an armed party go forth and make the round of all places that might possibly harbour an enemy, and not until their search has proved that the village is clear do others issue for their ordinary avocations. At the time I marched up the valley the Maharaja's relations with the Yâsîn chief were in a doubtful state, on account of the murder of Mr. Hayward, for which we were trying to get reparation; these precautions, therefore, may have been more than usually attended to. I did not myself lodge within the forts, but, having an escort of 200 men from Gilgit, we were able to keep such a look-out as effectually to prevent any surprise.

The highest point in the valley that I went to was Gâkûj. This is the last village in Puniâl; it is the farthest in this north-west corner to which the Maharaja's power or influence extends—and here it is the farthest to which the influence of the Government of India reaches. Gâkûj is, by my observations, 6940 feet above the sea; it is on a knob of rock behind which is a sloping plain, all this being 700 feet above the river. It is a cold windy place; snow falls there in winter to a depth varying from 6 inches to 1 foot 6 inches, and it stays three months; here only one crop is grown, while near the level of the river, 600 feet down, two crops are got from the land.

There is a strong fort at Gâkûj, containing within it a spring of water; the garrison is composed of the villagers—about fifty fighting-men. Part of the plain is cultivated, but beyond that part stretches a narrow stony plain backed by mountains 3000 feet or so high, their sides dotted with pencil-cedar bushes with pine-forest above; this strip of plain extends some eight miles up the valley, at which distance a spur from the mountains comes down and juts against the river, making a natural barrier. This spot, called Hûpar, is the extreme point of the Maharaja's territory;

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described in the article on KASHMÍR. By that route Gilgit lies at a distance of 390 miles from the present railway base at Rāwalpindi. An alternative line has been opened over the Babusar pass, which brings Gilgit within 250 miles of the railway at Hassan Abdāl. This line, besides being shorter, has the advantage of crossing only one snow pass, instead of two, or practically three, if the winter snow at Murree be taken into consideration. The routes to the north are mere tracks, when the military roads connecting Gilgit with the outposts at Gupis and Hunza have been passed.

205 648 Post and telegraph offices.

There is a daily postal service with India by the Burzil pass and Kashmír, and the telegraph line follows the same route. Both services work well in spite of heavy snow and destr ctive avalanches, and are maintained by the Government of India. There is a weekly postal service from Gilgit to Chilās and Gupis, and a fortnightly post between Gilgit and Kashgar via the Kilik pass in the summer, and the Mintaka in the winter.

643 704 Administration, &c.

The Gilgit Wazārat is in charge of a Wazír Wazārat. Crime is slight; there is no jail and no police organization. Police duties are carried out by the levies and a few soldiers of the Kashmír regular troops. There is little litigation; and the chief business of the Wazír is the provision of supplies to the garrison at Gilgit, now effected by an excellent system of transport from Kashmír. In 1891–2, at the time of the Hunza-Nagar expedition, the garrison had a force of 2,451; in 1895, when the Chitrāl disturbances broke out, it consisted of 3,373; and the present garrison numbers 1,887, including a mountain battery, two infantry Imperial Service regiments, and Kashmír sappers and miners. A school is maintained at Gilgit.

651 Land revenue.

A land revenue settlement of Astor and Gilgit has been made. It was found impossible to introduce a purely cash assessment, owing to the State's requirements in grain; but many inequalities and abuses were removed, and, on the whole, the condition of the villagers is satisfactory.

631 Political relations.

A British Political Agent resides at Gilgit. He exercises some degree of supervision over the Wazír of the Kashmír State, and is directly responsible to the Government of India for the administration of the outlying districts or petty States of Hunza-Nagar, Ashkuman, Yāsín, and Ghizar, the little republic of Chilās, and also for relations with Tangír and Darel, over which valleys the Puniāl Rās and the Mehtarjaos of Yāsín have partially acknowledged claims. These States acknowledge the suzerainty of Kashmír, but form no part of its territory. They pay an annual tribute to the Darbār-